

Message Text

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S E C R E T AMMAN 0591

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JO, SA, XF

SUBJECT: SAUDI AND OTHER AID FOR JORDAN

REFS: (A) AMMAN 399 (B) AMMAN 483

1. SUMMARY. IN EFFORT TO RECONCILE VARIOUS REPORTS OF SAUDI AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN, WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH RIFAI AGAIN TOTAL PICTURE OF ARAB HELP TO JORDAN AS OF NOW. RIFAI EXPLAINS THAT ON JANUARY 20 (REFTEL B) HE WAS DISCUSSING RABAT WAR CHEST OF JD55M EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED BY JORDAN. HE AFFIRMED SOME OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED EARLIER ON SAUDI \$US 57M GIFT DURING FAISAL TRIP WAS TRUE AND CORRECTED OTHER INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED (REFTEL A). END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS PERTINENT INFORMATION RECAPPED FOR DEPARTMENT:

(A) RABAT WAR CHEST--JORDAN HAS RECEIVED FROM SAUDI ARABIA \$51M OF A TOTAL EXPECTED OF \$160-175M PLEDGED AS AGAINST \$300M PROMISED. RIFAI SAID THAT KUWAIT SHARE WOULD EQUAL SAUDI, THAT KUWAIT HAD RECENTLY BEEN ASKED FOR FUNDS AND THEY WERE EXPECTED SOONS. UAE WOULD PROVIDE ABOUT \$35M, WITH QATAR AND BAHRAIN GIVING SOMETHING ALSO. FINALLY, IRAQ SAID IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE HELP TO JORDAN. JORDAN WILL SEPND

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ITS ABOVE-MENTIONED \$160-175 RABAT SUBSIDY FUNDS AS LISTED PARA 2

REFTEL B--\$31M FOR ARMY CAMPS; \$28-\$31M TO PAY DAMAGE WAR CLAIMS FROM 1970; \$52M FOR UNCOMPLETED PARTION OF CY/FY 1974 GOJ ARMY AND AIR FORCE BUDGETS AND REMAINING FUNDS \$55-60M FOR NEW EQUIPMENT.

(B) SAUDI GIFT (FAISAL VISIT) OF \$57M--AS ANNOUNCED \$10M WOULD GO FOR OFFICERS' HOUSING. THIS SEEMS TO BE IN ADDITION TO \$10M FROM IRAN FOR SAME PURPOSE AND WE SUSPECT PART OF IT MAY BE DIVERTED TO BUILDING ANEW ARMY GHQ COMPLEX AND ROYAL DIWAN. AS FOR THE REMAINING \$47M, IT WILL BE USED TO MAKE UP THE CY/FY 1975 BUDGET DEFICIT. THE PUBLISHED DEFICIT IS SET AT JD11.9 (\$37M). IN ADDITION RIFAI SAYS THAT THERE IS AN ITEM OF REVENUE IN FY 1975 BUDGET FOR JD 10 (\$31.4) LISTED AS COMING FROM "OTHER" STATES (THE GULF) WHICH IS NOT IN HAND AND THEREFORE IS ACTUALLY AN ADDITIONAL DEFICIT. IT WAS LISTED THUSLY, SAYS RIFAI, AS A DEVICE TO GARNER ADDITIONAL ARAB HELP. WE SUSPECT ALSO IT WAS A WAY TO AVOID CHOPPING THE BUDGET AND AT SAME TIME SHOWING ANY LARGER DEFICIT TO OUTSIDE WORLD. RIFAI WILL USE FILL SAUDI \$47M AGAINST TOTAL DEFICIT OF \$69M, LEAVING \$22M (ABOUT JD 7M) STILL UNFUNDED.

3. DAVID ROCKEFELLER TOLD US THAT RIFAI INDICATED WHEN SAUDIS FIRST ARRIVED ON VISIT THAT THEY OFFERED HIM \$18M RIGHT OFF THE BAT AND WITHOUT BEING ASKED. RIFAI SAID HE TURNED THIS DOWN IMMEDIATELY AS "NOT NEEDED" LEAVING THE SAUDIS TO SUGGEST SOMETHING MORE GENEROUS.
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